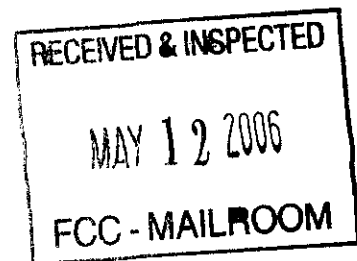


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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554



In the Matter of)
)
Numbering Resource Optimization)
)
Petition of the West Virginia Public Service Commission)
for Expedited Decision for Authority to Implement)
Additional Number Conservation Measures)
)
Petition of the Nebraska Public Service Commission for)
Expedited Decision for Authority to Implement Additional)
Number Conservation Measures)
)
Petition of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission for)
Expedited Decision for Authority to Implement Additional)
Number Conservation Measures)
)
Petition of the Michigan Public Service Commission for)
Additional Delegated Authority over Numbering Resource)
Conservation Measures)
)
Petition of the Missouri Public Service Commission for)
Additional Delegated Authority to Implement Number)
Conservation Measures)

CC Docket 99-200

**KENTUCKY PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
COMMENTS IN THE ORDER AND FIFTH NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

The Kentucky Public Service Commission (KPSC) submits the following comments in response to the Order and Fifth Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) on Numbering Resource Optimization measures which the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) released on February 24, 2006. By this Order, the FCC granted the petitions of five state commissions requesting delegated authority to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling areas where pooling is currently optional.

The KPSC believes that the decision of the FCC in this matter is vital to the life of the numbering plan areas (NPAs) in each of the states to which delegated authority was granted, and, further, believes that such measures would be beneficial to all states as well. The KPSC strongly encourages the FCC to

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expand the role of states in number conservation by granting delegated authority to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling to all states, and that these measures be implemented at the discretion of the states.

Background

In its First Report and Order issued in 2000, the FCC determined that thousands-block number pooling was vital to the life of the North American Numbering Plan. In March of 2002, the FCC began its national rollout of thousands-block number pooling requiring all carriers operating within the 100 largest Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) to participate in accordance with the national rollout schedule. Out of the four NPAs in the state of Kentucky (270, 502, 606, and 859), two NPAs contain rate centers located within the top 100 MSAs (502 and 859). Six counties in Kentucky located in the 859 NPA lie within the Cincinnati MSA.¹ These counties contain ten rate centers. Further, there are three counties located within the Louisville MSA.² These counties contain seven rate centers. Therefore, seventeen rate centers in the state of Kentucky were included in the nationwide rollout of mandatory pooling.

In 2001, the KPSC began planning for relief in the 270 NPA. At that time, the North American Numbering Plan Administrator projected that the 270 NPA would exhaust its supply of NXX codes during the second quarter of 2004. Recognizing the benefits provided by thousands-block number pooling, the KPSC filed a petition with the FCC on July 2, 2001 for interim delegated authority to implement number pooling trials within the 270 NPA. On June 18, 2001, the Common Carrier Bureau announced that a national pooling administrator had been chosen and the national pooling rollout schedule would be released in March 2002. On October 9, 2001, the FCC, through public notice, announced that it would not address any petitions filed on or after June 18, 2001 for authority to implement state thousands-block number pooling. Therefore, the KPSC's petition was never addressed by the FCC. The KPSC also adopted number conservation measures, namely the elimination of all land-

¹ Boone, Campbell, Gallatin, Grant, Kenton, and Pendleton

² Bullitt, Jefferson, and Oldham

to-mobile seven-digit dialing across NPAs as well as other non-tariffed intrastate dialing plans across NPAs that existed at the time, to extend the life of the 270 NPA.

Comments

Granting all states the authority to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling at their own discretion will extend the lives of NPAs across the country. Thus, the need for further NPA relief in many areas could be delayed. The 270 NPA in Kentucky, for example, is currently projected to exhaust during the first quarter of 2009. Initial projections in 2001 indicated that the NPA would exhaust during the second quarter of 2004. The main factor contributing to the further extension of the exhaust date is a reduced demand for resources. However, number conservation measures adopted by the KPSC along with optional thousands-block number pooling implemented by the FCC have contributed greatly as well. Only a few providers within the 270 NPA have chosen to participate in thousands-block number pooling due to the lack of any top 100 MSAs within the 270 NPA. However, it is the belief of the KPSC that mandatory pooling could extend the life of the 270 NPA, along with the other three NPAs in Kentucky, if the FCC were to grant authority for the state to implement such a measure at its own discretion.

According to the NRUF Utilization Under 5% Report listed in NANPA's Number Administration System, the 270 NPA currently contains 1599 one-thousand number blocks that have zero percent utilization.³ Of those 1599 blocks, 659 blocks have been donated to the number pool. In the 502 NPA, there are 390 one-thousand number blocks with zero percent utilization, and 269 of those blocks have been donated to the number pool. In the 606 NPA, there are 1046 one-thousand number blocks with zero percent utilization, and 563 of those blocks have been donated to the number pool. Finally, in the 859 NPA, of the 782 one-thousand number blocks with zero utilization, 453 blocks have been donated to the number pool. It should further be noted that the 502 and the 859 NPA both contain areas contained in a top 100 MSA.

The NPA that currently has the shortest projected lifespan is the 270 NPA which is set to exhaust during the first quarter of 2009. There are currently 940 one-thousand number blocks within the 270

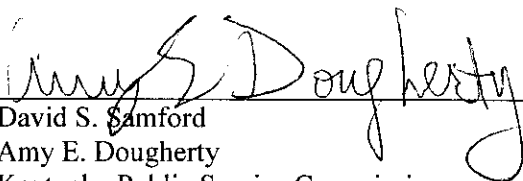
³ Cycle date, February 1, 2006.

NPA that stand at zero percent utilization and have not been donated to the pool. Should thousands-block number pooling become mandatory for this NPA, the KPSC believes that the lifespan of the 270 NPA could be greatly increased. The authority to implement thousands-block number pooling would further provide the KPSC, and all states, the tools necessary to assist in extending the lives of every NPA within the state.

Conclusion

The KPSC, therefore, urges the FCC to expand the role of the states in number conservation by delegating authority to all states to implement mandatory thousands-block number pooling. In addition, this authority granted by the FCC should be utilized by the states at their own discretion. It is the belief of the KPSC that individual states are in the best position to determine the need and usefulness of measures such as this. Further, mandatory thousands-block number pooling would provide state commissions with a valuable tool in utilizing numbering resources efficiently, and could further extend the lives of NPAs in each state.

Dated: May 11, 2006



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